

Abstract

A cross-domain, integration architecture to allow service providers to provide end to end services is presented. The architecture relates to communication networks having a plurality of domains including their management and enables the effecting of policies on policy-enabled resources across domains by using PEP virtualisation. Policy management is separated from the management of policy-enabled resources. Policy management is performed by a resource policy layer which establishes services across domains in the communication network. A network resource controller in each domain locates within its domain policy-enabled resources that are required to implement the services. The controller also manages those resources. A method of implementing the invention is also discussed.